

Applicant: Wilkinson, A. G. Jr.
Serial No.: 10/734,347
June 21, 2005

CLEAN VERSION OF CLAIMS AS AMENDED

1. (Once Amended/Allowed) A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising:

a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free from said handle;

two guides for slidably supporting said rod on said handle, said guides having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod; and

a slot defined by one of said guides.

2. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

at least one guide having an aperture for slidably receiving said rod.

3. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 2, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

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two guides.

4. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 3, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

5. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for engaging food comprises:

a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

6. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger than the width of said rod.

7. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

means for determining the temperature of the food items.

8. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 7, wherein said temperature determining

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means comprises:

a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said tine head.

9. (Original/Allowed) A fork as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

a rubber based grip on said handle.

10. (Twice Amended) A barbeque fork for holding and removing food items, said fork comprising:

a handle;

a tine head on a first end of said handle, said tine head having at least one tine;

a rod slidably supported on said handle, said rod comprising means for engaging food items on said tine head and means for preventing said rod from pulling free from said handle; said food engaging means being slidably disposed along an independent plane over and substantially parallel to a top surface of said tine;

^{two}
~~at least one~~ guide post^s for slidably supporting said rod on said handle, said guide post^s having an aperture^s for slidably receiving said rod to facilitate movement of said rod across said handle and sliding said food engaging means; and

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted

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guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

11. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

at least two guides for facilitating controlled lateral movement.

12. (Canceled) A fork as recited in claim 11, wherein said means for slidably supporting said rod comprises:

a slot defined by one of said guides for facilitating removal of said rod from said slotted guide such that said rod is able to pivot.

13. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for engaging food comprises:

a cross-brace that is approximately perpendicular to said rod.

14. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, wherein said means for preventing said rod from pulling free comprises a stop on said rod having a width that is larger ^{than} that the width of said rod.

15. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

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means for determining the temperature of the food items.

16. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 15, wherein said temperature determining means comprises:

a thermometer having a temperature probe operatively associated with said tine head.

17. (Original) A fork as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

a rubber based grip on said handle.